



Promoting global population health while constraining the environmental footprint

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Abstract:

Populations today face increasing health risks from human-induced regional and global environmental changes and resultant ecological nonsustainability. Localized environmental degradation that has long accompanied population growth, industrialization, and rising consumerism has now acquired a global and often systemic dimension (e.g., climate change, disrupted nitrogen cycling, biodiversity loss). Thus, the economic intensification and technological advances that previously contributed to health gains have now expanded such that humanity's environmental (and ecological) footprint jeopardizes global population health. International data show, in general, a positive correlation of a population's health with level of affluence and size of per-person footprint. Yet, beyond a modest threshold, larger footprints afford negligible health gain and may impair health (e.g., via the rise of obesity). Furthermore, some lower-income countries have attained high levels of health. Many changes now needed to promote ecological (and social) sustainability will benefit local health. Continued improvement of global health could thus coexist with an equitably shared global environmental footprint.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-031210-101203>

Resource Description

Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Temperature, Unspecified Exposure

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Wildfires

Food/Water Quality: Other Water Quality Issue

Water Quality (other): Ocean Acidification; Water Temperature

Food/Water Security: Agricultural Productivity, Fisheries, Food Access/Distribution

Temperature: Extreme Heat

Geographic Feature: ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Developmental Effect, Infectious Disease, Injury, Mental Health/Stress, Respiratory Effect

Developmental Effect: Other Functional Deficit

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Mood Disorder

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Mitigation

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified